

DECLARATION
FROM THE
HARMLESS & INNOCENT
People of God, called,
QUAKERS
Against ALL
SEDITION
Plotters & Fighters
In the WORLD.

For the removing of the Ground of Jealousie and Suspicion from both
Magistrates and People in the Kingdome, concerning Wars and Fightings.

Presented unto the King, upon the 21st day of the
11th month, 1660.

OUR Principle is, and our Practices have always been to
seek peace, and ensue it, and to follow after Righteousness,
and the Knowledge of God, seeking the Good and Well-
fare, and doing that which tends to the peace of All. We
know that Wars and Fightings proceed from the Lusts of Men, as
James 4. 1, 2, 3. out of which Lusts the Lord hath warned us, and
is out of the Occasion of War, the occasion of which War, and the

War it self (wherein envious Men, who are lovers of themselves more then lovers of God, Lust, Kill, and desire to have Mens Lives or Estates) ariseth from the Lust. All Bloody Principles and Practices we (as to our own particular) do utterly deny, with all outward Wars and Strife, and Fightings with outward Weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever, and thus is our Testimony to the whole World.

And whereas it is Objected,

But although you now say, *That you cannot Fight, nor take up Arms at all*; yet if the Spirit do move you, then you will change your Principle, and then you will sell your Coat, and buy a Sword, & Fight for the Kingdom of Christ.

Answer. As for this, we say to you, that Christ said to Peter, *Put up thy Sword in his place*, though he had said before, *he that putteth up his Sword, might sell his Coat and buy one* (to the fulfilling of the Law and Scripture) yet after when he had bid him put it up, he said, *He that taketh the Sword, shall perish with the Sword*; and further, Christ said to Pilate, *Thinkest thou that I cannot now send to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve Legions of Angels?* and this might satistie Peter, *Luk. 22. 36.* after he had put up his Sword, when he said to him, *He that took it, should perish by it*, which he took up, *Mat. 26. 51, 52, 53.* and in the Revelations it is said, *He that killeth with the Sword, shall perish with the Sword*, and here is the Faith and the Patience of the Saints; and so Christ's Kingdom Is not of this World, therefore do not his Servants Fight, as he told Pilate the Magistrate, who crucified him: and did they not look upon Christ as a raller of Sedition? and did not he say, *Forgive them?* But thus it is, that we are numbered amongst Transgressors, and numbred amongst Fighters, that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.

That Spirit of Christ by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as Evil, and again to move unto it, and we do certainly know, and so testify to the World, that the Spirit of Christ, which leadeth us into all Truth, will never move us to Fight and War against any Man, with outward Weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ, nor for the Kingdom of this World.

First, Because the Kingdom of Christ, God will exalt according to his promise, and cause it to grow and flourish in Righteousness, *Not by Might, nor by Power (of outward Sword) but by my Spirit (saith the Lord).*

And as it should be our duty to Fight for Christ, so for the Kingdom of the Kingdoms or Government, both the Spirit, and the Word should be our Weapon.

We do earnestly desire and wait, That (by the Word of Gods Power, and its effectual Operation in the Hearts of Men) the Kingdoms of this World may become the Kingdoms of the Lord, and of his Christ, that he might Rule and Reigne Men, by his Spirit and Truth; that shortly all People out of all Nations, Languages and Professions, might be brought into Love and Unity with God, and one with another; and that they might all come to witness the Prophets words, who said, *Nation shall be life to another, and shall shall they have War any more,* Isa. 2. 4. Mich. 4. 3.

So we, whom the Lord hath called into the obedience of his Truth, *brood denyed War and Fightings*, and cannot again any more learn it. And this is a true Testimony unto all the World, of the Truth of our Hearts in this particular, that as God perswadeth every Mans Heart to believe, so they may receive it; for we have not (as some others) gone about cunningly with devised Fables: Nor have we ever denyed in Practice, what we have professed in Principle, but in Sincerity and Truth, and by the Word of God have we laboured to be made manifest unto all Men, that both we and our ways might be witnessed in the Hearts of all People: And whereas all manner of Evil hath been falsely spoken of us, we hereby speak forth the plain Truth of our hearts, to take away the occasion of that offence, that so we being Innocent, may not suffer for other Mens Offences, nor be made a Prey upon by the Wills of men, for that of which we were never Guilty, but in the uprightness of our hearts we may, under the Power ordained of God, for the punishment of Evil-doers, and for the praise of them that do well, live a peaceable and godly Life, in all Godliness and Honesty; for although we have always suffered, and do now more abundantly suffer; yet we know that it's for Righteousness sake; For our rejoicing is this, the Testimony of our Consciences; that in Simplicity and godly Sincerity, not with fleshy Wisdom, but by the Grace of God, we have had our Conversation in the World; 2 Cor. 1. 12. Which for us is a Witness, for the convincing of our Enemies. For this we can say to all the

World, we have wronged no Mans Persons or Possessions; we have used no force nor violence against any Man; we have been found in no Plots, nor guilty of Seditions; when we have been wronged, we have not sought to revenge our selves, we have not made resistance against Authority, but wherein we could not obey for Conscience sake, we have suffered even the most of any People in the Nation, we have been counted as Sheep for the Slaughter, Persecuted and Despised, Beaten, Stoned, Wounded, Stocked, Whipped, Imprisoned, Haled out of Synagogues, cast into Dungeons and Noisome Vaults, where many have died in Bonds, shut up from our Friends, denied needful Sustenance for many days together, with other the like Cruelties, and the cause of all this our Sufferings, is not for any Evil, but for things relating to the Worship of our God, and in obedience to his requirings of us; *For which Cause we shall freely give up our Bodies a Sacrifice, rather then disobey the Lord:* For we know, as the Lord hath kept us Innocent, so he will plead our Cause, when there is none in the Earth to plead it; So we, in obedience unto his Truth, do not love our Lives unto the Death, that we may do his will, and wrong no Man in our Generation, but seek the Good and Peace of all Men: And he that hath commanded us, *That we shall not swear at all,* Mat. 5. 34. hath also commanded us, *That we shall not kill,* Mat. 5. So that we can neither kill Men, nor swear for nor against them. And this is both our Principle and Practice, and hath been from the Beginning, so that if we suffer, as suspected to take up Arms, or make War against any, it is without any ground from us, for it neither is, nor ever was in our Hearts since we owned the Truth of God, neither shall we ever do it, because it is contrary to the Spirit of Christ, his Doctrine, and the Practices of his Apostles, even contrary to him for whom we suffer all things, and endure all things.

And whereas Men come against us with Clubs, Staves, Drawn Swords, Pistols &c, and do beat, cut and abuse us; yet we never resisted them, but to them our Hair, Backs, and Cheeks have been ready; but it is not an honour to Manhood nor Nobility, to run upon harmless People, who lift not up a Hand against them; with Arms and Weapons.

Therefore consider these things ye Men of Understanding: For Plotters, Raisers of Insurrections, Tumultuous Ones, and Fighters, running with Swords, Clubs, Staves and Pistols one against another;

We say, shall not the World, and have their foundation from this Un-
 righteous World, from the foundation of which, the Lamb hath been
 slain, which Lamb hath redeemed us from this unrighteous World,
 and we are not of it; but are Heirs of a World in which there is no
 End, and of a Kingdom where no corruptible thing enters. And our
 Weapons are *Spiritual*, and not *Carroll*, yet *Mighty* though *God*, is the
 pulling down of the Strong Holds of Sin and Satan, who is Author of Wars,
 Fighting, Murder, and Plots; and our Swords are broken into *Plowshares*,
 and *Spears* into *Pruning-hooks*, as Prophesied of in *Micah 4*. Therefore
 we cannot learn War any more, neither rise up against Nation or
 Kingdom with outward Weapons, though you have numbered us a-
 mongst the Transgressors and Plotters; the Lord knows our Innocency
 herein, and will plead our Cause with all Men and People upon Earth,
 at the day of their Judgment, when all Men shall have a reward ac-
 cording to their Works.

Therefore in love we warn you for your Souls good, not to wrong the
 Innocent, nor the Babes of Christ, which he hath in his Hand, which
 he tenders as the Apple of his Eye, neither seek to destroy the Heri-
 tage of God, neither turn your Swords backward, upon such as the Law
 was not made for, *i. e.* the *Righteous*, but for the Sinners and Trans-
 gressors, to keep them down. For those are not the Peace-makers,
 neither the Lovers of Enemies; neither can they overcome Evil with
 Good, who wrong them that be Friends to You and All Men; and
 wish Your Good, and the good of all People on the Earth. If you
 Oppress us, as they did the Children of Israel in Egypt, and if you Op-
 press us as they did when Christ was Born, and as they did the Christi-
 ans in the Primitive Times, we can say, **The Lord forgive You,**
 and leave the Lord to deal with you, and not revenge ourselves; And
 if you say, as the Council said to Peter and John, *You must speak no more*
in that Name; and if you serve us as they served the Three Childrⁿ
 spoken of in *Daniel*; God is the same as ever he was, that lives for E-
 ver and Ever, who hath the Innocent in his Arms.

Oh Friends! offend not the Lord and his *Little Ones*; neither afflict
 his People; but consider, and be moderate and do not run hastily to
 things; but mind, and consider *Mercy*, *Justice* and *Judgment*; that is
 the way for you to prosper, and get the Favour of the Lord. Our
 Meetings were stopped and broken up in the dayes of *Oliver*, in pretence;

of Plotting against him; and in the days of the Continuance of Safety, we were looked upon as Plotters in being in K. J. M. G. CHARLES; and now our Peaceable Meetings are termed Seditions. Oh that men should lose their Reason, and go contrary to their own conscience, knowing that we have suffered all things, and have been accounted Plotters all along, though we have declared against them both by word of mouth and Printing, and are clear from any such thing, though we have suffered all along, because we would not take up carnal weapons to fight withal against any, and are thus made a prey upon, because we are the innocent hands of Christ, and cannot avenge ourselves. These things are left upon your hearts to consider. But we are out of all those things, in the patience of the Saints, and we know, as Christ said, *Whoever shall be sword, shall perish with the sword*, Mat. 26. 52. Rev. 19. 10.

This is given forth from the People called Quakers, to satisfy the King and his Council, and all those that have any Jealousie concerning us, that all occasions of suspicion may be taken away, and our Innocency cleared.

Given forth on the behalf of the whole Body of the Elect People of God, who are called Quakers, in the Year 1660.

POSTSCRIPT.

Added in the Reprinting.

Courteous Reader,

THis was our Testimony above Twenty Years ago, and since then we have not been found Aſſing contrary to it, nor ever ſhall; for the Truth that is our Guide is unchangeable; and this is now Repeated to the Men of this Age, many of whom were then Children, and doth ſtand as our certain Teſtimony againſt all Plotting and Fighting with Carnal Weapons; and if any by departing from the Truth ſhould do ſo, this is our Teſtimony in the Truth againſt them, and will ſtand over them, and the Truth will be clear of them.

